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C O N F I D E N T I A L KUWAIT 004739

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FOR NEA/ARPI, NEA/ENA, IO/UNP, AND S/WCI; LONDON FOR TSOU;  
PARIS FOR ZEYA

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TAGS: [PTER](#) [PBTS](#) [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [KU](#) [IZ](#)

SUBJECT: INTERIOR MINISTER SAYS INFORMATION-SHARING KEY TO  
FIGHTING TERRORISM; ENCOURAGES SYRIA TO COOPERATE WITH UN

REF: STATE 205225

Classified By: Ambassador Richard LeBaron for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d)

¶1. (C) Summary: During a November 12 meeting with Interior Minister Shaykh Nawaf Al-Sabah, the Ambassador stressed the needed to strengthen counterterrorism measures and said that better cooperation between the U.S. and Kuwait, as well as increased information-sharing, would help to prevent terror attacks. He welcomed GOK pressure on Syria and supported the Government's efforts to definitively resolve the border issue with Iraq. Shaykh Nawaf agreed that closer coordination would improve the GOK's CT capabilities. The Minister also confirmed that the former Guantanamo detainees would be tried and asked that the U.S. consider repatriating the remaining Kuwaitis held at Guantanamo. End Summary.

#### C/T Cooperation

¶2. (C) The Ambassador opened his November 12 meeting with First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Interior Shaykh Nawaf Al-Ahmed Al-Jaber Al-Sabah by citing the November 9 suicide bomber attacks in Amman as evidence that no country was beyond the reach of terrorism. He noted good cooperation between the U.S. and the GOK, but said that there was room for improvement. He identified solid intelligence as the best way to prevent attacks and said the GOK needed to improve its surveillance capacity, both physical and technical, in order to head off attacks before they happen. Shaykh Nawaf replied he appreciated the continuing, open dialogue with the U.S. on counterterrorism and agreed that sharing information was the basis for thwarting terrorists. He said the GOK welcomed increased bilateral cooperation and technical assistance. Commenting on surveillance, he said the Kuwaiti constitution put some constraints on the scope of such measures.

#### Syria: What Is He Thinking?

¶3. (C) On other issues affecting regional stability, the Minister said Syrian President Bashar al Asad's November 10 speech to the UN General Assembly was not good for Syria and was not what the GOK wanted to hear. He said Syria's motives were unclear, but the GOK supported reform, compliance with UNSCR 1636, and full cooperation with the international community, a message he said the Foreign Minister recently delivered to al Asad. The Ambassador welcomed GOK pressure on the SARG and relayed refel points.

#### Dealing With Iraq Border

¶4. (SBU) Turning to the Kuwait-Iraq border issue, Shaykh

Nawaf reported the November 11 arrival of UN Secretary General Kofi Annan to Kuwait and restated Kuwait's determination to permanently resolve the matter. He said the GOK welcomed the anticipated November 19 visit of an Iraqi delegation to visit the border area and said the GOK would compensate displaced Iraqi farmers.

Guantanamo  
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15. (C) Commenting on the November 3 return of five detainees from Guantanamo, the Minister said they had received medical attention and were under detention. He confirmed they would be tried in Kuwaiti courts. He expressed hope that the remaining six detainees would soon be repatriated.

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